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\* MAGGIE THE NEW COOK \*  
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\* Property of Johnnie Speer. \*  
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MAGGIE, THE NEW COOK

CAST

HENRY ..... COMED OLD MAN

JOHN ..... STRAIGHT

MAGGIE ..... IRISH BIDDY

STELLA ..... INGENUE OR SOUBRETE

ARABELLA ..... CHARACTER ODD LADY

PROPS

Umbrella  
Piece of hard cake  
TABLE and two chairs  
Lots of bundles  
Telephone

SETTING

C. D. FANCY      DOORS    R.      AND    L.



MAGGIE THE NEW COOK

JOHN

(ENTERS E.) Oh, go on don't argue with me. I'm tired of fussing with you. I said that the food has been terrible.

STELLA

Well, what are you going to do about it? I'm sure there's nothing I can do.

JOHN

Where did you get the new cook, and what is she like?

STELLA

Well, she's a combination between dynamite and T. N. T. and if you think that you'll have any luck bawling her out, why just go right in the kitchen and bawl her out.

JOHN

Well, I hope that you don't think I'm afraid of a mere woman, do you? (ROLLS UP SLEEVES)

STELLA

Any day you're not. Here's one mere, woman, big boy, that you're afraid of. John Black, don't think that you're going to be the boss of this house. I'll not stand for it.

JOHN

Well, all right, but I don't see how you expect me to go to work and earn the family living with a stomach full of rotten food like I've had lately.

STELLA

You weren't satisfied with the food that I cooked.

JOHN

I beg your pardon, my dear, did I say-the-fee- hear you say the food you cooked.

STELLA

You did?

JOHN

You mean the food you bought at the delicatessen store. Say if you'd ever lost the can opener while you we're cooking we'd have been starved.

STELLA

You know that's a lie. Look at those lovely biscuits I baked that time. I baked you a whole pan of them. And what did you say? What did you say when you ate one of them?

JOHN

Nothing, my dear, except I told you that I thought you were entirely too light for such heavy work.

STELLA

My biscuits weren't heavy?

JOHN

Not much. I dropped one of them on the side walk and cracked a half a block of pavement.



STELLA  
(CRIES AND STAMPS FOOT) Oh I wish I'd never married you.

JOHN  
So do I!

STELLA  
Yes, you say that now, but before we were married---you told me that you worshipped the ground that I walked on.

JOHN  
Yes, but my dear, I thought you owned the ground.

STELLA  
You handed me a dirty deal when you married me.

JOHN  
Well, you didn't give me any Xmas Present. Before I married you I thought you were an angel.

STELLA  
You must still think it---you never buy me any clothes.

JOHN  
Oh, Stella, let's quit fighting.

STELLA  
Fighting! Why I haven't said a word.

JOHN  
You know the dinners we've been having are terrible.

STELLA  
But what can you do? When you try to bawl the new cook out she runs you out of the kitchen with a rolling pin.

JOHN  
Well, she'll not do that to me. I'm the owner of this house, and I'll tell her so. I'll go right in there right now. (EXITS R.)

STELLA  
Oh I do hope John doesn't get hurt.

MAGGIE  
(AFTER AN ADLIBB FIGHT OFF STAGE) Sure and any more complaints from you and I'm liable to quit. (ENTERS R. BACKING ON JOHN FOLLOWING HER) Why the idea! The very audacity of some people's children. Ma'an this wart on a peanut that you call your husband had the nerve to come in and try to tell me---me, Maggie, the cook lady how to cook? Why I'll slap you so hard on top of the head that you'll have fallen arches.

JOHN  
See here I own this house.

MAGGIE  
Well, don't brag about it.

JOHN  
I wear the pants in my family!



MAGGIE

Well, get hard with me and I'll take your pants off.

JOHN

Well, it looks to me like I ought to have the right to dictate in my own house.

MAGGIE

Dictate any time you want to but you'll have to clean it up yourself. Oh you brute! I'm just all unstrung today, and then to have him come in and try to bawl me out, why it's a wonder I didn't faint. I'm so delicate any way. Oh, ma'am I feel sorry for you. Your husband is a brute. He reminds me of my seventh husband.

JOHN

Seventh husband? How many times have you been married.

MAGGIE

Oh I don't know. I never had an adding machine when I done it. All my husbands are dead but one---

JOHN

How did he escape?

MAGGIE

Oh I left him, and ran away with a coal-hauler, mounted policeman. Yes it was my third husband. I can see him now--a little tiny fellow not much in size but very satisfactory. But one day a mounted police came into my life, and I left little Henry---let's see was it Henry? Yes, Henry that was the name of my third husband. Well, I left Henry and married this mounted police man---oh my god how that man could mount. He just was a whizz with horses. The only trouble with him was he used to go to bed with his spurs on, and oh he bothered me so---my legs are just all scratched and bruised---he'd kick me in the night. And then he used to have an awful habit of bring his horse in the house, and that horse just simply had no sense of direction. Well, I had to get rid of him---I got some flea powder--and let him eat---the husband I mean--not the horse. I didn't kill the horse--I often wondered what did become of my third husband---the little devil he might have grieved himself to death you never can tell. Oh dear! We women do suffer, don't we?

JOHN

Well, I didn't call you in to hear your family troubles I wanted to bawl you out about the cake you baked----it was as hard as cement.

MAGGIE

Well, I ran out of flour and put a little cement in it. I didn't think you'd mind.

JOHN

Oh no---further more I found two cock roaches, a pair of kid gloves and a thi stocking in it.

MAGGIE

Well, I wish you'd eat another piece of it and see if you can find a pair of shoes I lost last week.

STELLA

Oh, Maggie, it does look to me like you would try to do better.



MAGGIE

Ma'am I do I just put my whole heart and soul into my cooking.

JOHN

Yes, well, please don't put som much in mine after this.

STELLA

Maggie, I want you to cook a nice meal as my father and mother are comeing to visit us today.

JOHN

What. Mother-in-law going to be here again?

STELLA

John, you act as though you didn't want my mother to come and visit us.

JOHN

She's an old hell cat--I won't have a minutes peace. I'm going to move to the city while they are here.

STELLA

Move to the city, and when you come back you will be moved out of this house. Maggie, obey my orders and prepare diinner for four

MAGGIE

Very well, but I want no bawlings out from the likes of your husband because I'm a perfectly disrepsectable female cook lady woman, and I'll not stand for it. Remember I'm a lady--and I don't give a damb who knows it. (EXITS HOLDING SKIRTS HIGH R.)

JOHN

She's a knockout.

STELLA

Well, you're going to get knocked out if you insult my mother when she is here. John, if you do I'll never speak to you again.

JOHN

Oh all right. I've got to go to the office---and I might not come home though.

STELLA

John, you'd better come home tonight! Or I won't give you what I promised you.

JOHN

What did you promise me? .

STELLA

Oh you know.

JOHN

(SUDDENLY) Oh yeah. All right I'll be home baby. That's right tonig tonight is the night isn't it?(THROWS HER AND A KISS AND EXITS)

STELLA

The dear! I promised him I'd have a bottle hf home brew on ice for him. (EXITS L.)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER ONE \*\*\*\*\*



ARABELLA

(ENTERS C.) Oh come right along, Henry. and don't you dare look like you want to talk back to me. Hurry up!

HENRY

(ENTERS C. WITH A WHOLE BUNCH OF BUNDLES) Yes, my dear.

ARABELLA

Now, Henry, I want you to remember where you are and act accordingly. Don't let me even catch you or hear about you looking at another woman or it is the end.

HENRY

Yes, my dear. (DROPS SOME BUNDLE)S

ARABELLA

Pick those bundles up.

HENRY

(PICKS UP BUNDLES) Yes, my dear!

ARABELLA

Oh, Henry, I know all about you. I know that you are thinking about your first wife and that I'm only a second consideration with you.

HENRY

But, my dear, I haven't seen my first wife for twenty years.

ARABELLA

Yes, but every night you go to bed and dream of her.

HENRY

Honey, you know better than that. I'm just afraid. Every time I hear an automobile horn---I shiver!

ARABELLA

Ah ha! You shiver with excitement. You think that when you hear an automobile horn coming up the drive-way that it is your wife first wife returning to you---I know I know.

HENRY

No, my dear, every time I hear an auto horn I shiver because I'm afraid that the damn fool who ran away with her is bringing her back to me.

ARABELLA

Don't tell me, Henry Butts, if you were to meet your first wife you'd leave me tomorrow, wouldn't you?

HENRY

Yes, my dear.

ARABELLA

(CRACKS AT HIM) What!

HENRY

I mean, no my dear.

ARABELLA

Oh, Henry, I know you. I've got my eye on you. Well, I wonder where our daughter is?



STELLA

(ENTERS L.) Oh there you are, Mother. (EMBRACES HER) I'm so glad to see you.

ARABELLA

Yes. Well, I brought your father along. I was going to leave him at home but he looked like he might enjoy that and so I brought him along. My, dear, I don't trust anybody. And you want to watch that man of yours.

STELLA

Oh, Mother, my John is a perfect angel.

ARABELLA

That's what I thought about your pa, but he started sproutin' horns two weeks after we were married. Don't trust them. Watch your husband--continually for forieghn hairs and strange perfume on his coat. I watch Henry! (TURNS SEES HENRY IS LOOKING OUT DOOR) Henry!

HENRY

(JUMPS) Yes, my dear!

ARABELLA

What are you doing---gazing at some woman walking up the street. Look this way. Go over there and sit in that chair and stay there. (POINTS TO CHAIR)

HENRY

Yes, my dear! (SITS IN CHAIR)

ARABELLA

Well, where's your husband---I want to look at him and maybe I can detect a faint trace of guilt in his face. I can always tell when Henry has done anything he shouldn't.---I just look him in the eye and he wilts. Where's John I want to see if he is still true to you.

STELLA

My husband should be here any minute. He's a little late from work-

ARABELLA

I told you so! I told you so! He's out with a woman, has had her riding in a taxi cab and taken her to some cabaret. I told you so.

STELLA

Mother, how can you say that?

ARABELLA

I know men. Oh my dear when you've been married to a man who had a wife before you ---you'll know what it is. (LOOKS AT HENRY YELLS) Henry!

HENRY

(JUMPS) Yes, my dear!

ARABELLA

What are you thinking about? I know. You're thinking about your first wife. Don't lie to me. (HENRY STARTS) Shut up!

JOHN

(ENTERS C.) Oh hello---look who's here?



STELLA

Oh, John, mother and dad are here. And I've been telling mother how anxious you were to have her come, John.

JOHN

Oh yes, I was just wishing she'd fall down and break her neck before she got here.

ARABELLA

What!

JOHN

I mean I was afraid you might fall down and break your neck before you got here.

ARABELLA

Let me look at you, John. Stella tells me that you are a little late in getting home from the office. What excuse have you to offer.

JOHN

The street car jumped the track.

ARABELLA

I told you so! I told you so. Stella, watch him. Henry, used that gag on me once, and I came to find out that he was out with a dizzy blonde from a burlesque show. (GOES TO JOHN PULLS OFF A HAIR FROM HIS COAT LAPEL) Ah ha! A hair. I told you so! I told you so!

JOHN STELLA

Let me see that!

ARABELLA

He's been out with a woman. I can tell by the hair. I told you so! I told you so!

JOHN

Let me see that hair. (TAKES IT) Woman the devil---that's horse hair.

ARABELLA

Yes, that's what Henry picks out ever once in awhile---horses big blonde horses! I told you so! I told you so!

JOHN

Say you narrow minded old fool, that's a horse hair that came out of the lapel of my coat. Don't you know that they put horse hair in coats to make them stay in form? Stella, if you listen to your mother she'll have us separated before she's here ten minutes.

ARABELLA

I don't trust anybody! Well, Stella, show us to our rooms. I want to get settled. And I'm hungry. I hope you have a good cook.

STELLA

Yes, Mother---we've got a new cook.

JOHN

Sure---she'll please mother-in-law to a tee. (ASIDE TO HENRY) I hope she gets some of that cement cake.



ARABELLA

Well, I want to see her. I want to see if she's too pretty. You know I don't trust Henry. He's just like a dog after a piece of meat. I know him. He's not to be trusted.

HENRY

Now, my dear, I don't do anything---

ARABELLA

Shut up! What about your first wife. Well, hurry, Stella, I want to see what this new cook looks like and if she's pretty I'll fire her.

JOHN

Well, there's no danger of her getting fired then, Maggie has a job with us forever.

STELLA

I'll call her. (CALLS OFF R.) Maggie! Oh, Maggie!

MAGGIE

(OFF R.) Well, what is it?

STELLA

Come out here.

MAGGIE

I can't come now.

STELLA

Why not?

MAGGIE

This old settin' hen got up off her nest, and I got to set on her eggs till she gets back. Besides I'm reading the rules and regulations of the Cook Lady's Union, and I can't be bothered.

ARABELLA

The idea! Do you allow your cook to talk like that to you? I'll attend to that right now. Say come out of there and obey orders or I'll come in there after you. Do you hear me?

MAGGIE

(ENTERS R.) Say just who the hell do you think you are?

ARABELLA

What! Why the idea of a mere cook talking like this.

MAGGIE

Mere cook is it? And I'll have you to understand that I'm no common cook. I am the president of the Cook Ladies Union and according to the rules and regulations of the cook ladies union--- (BEGINS LOOKING AT HENRY) Oh my God!

STELLA

What's the matter, Maggie.

MAGGIE

(POINTS TO HENRY) There's my third husband! (SHE STARES FOR HIM. HENRY RUNS. ARABELLA AFTER THEM AND STELLA AND JOHN FOLLOWING)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER TWO \*\*\*\*\*  
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343 III

(ENTERS WITH HENRY) Ah ha I told you so! I told you so. Now you've found your first wife. What are you going to do?

HENRY

Nothing, my dear. I tell you it's some mistake.

ARABELLA

Oh, Henry, I know you. You'd like to leave me, but you won't. I'll kill you---why I'll pull every hair in your head out. Now I'm going and find that cook person and have it out with her. Now you stay right there. (EXITS B.)

HARRY

Yes, my dear! Oh Lord, I've got to find that new cook and find out what's it about before the old lady kills me. (CALLS OFF B.) MAGGIE  
Oh, Maggie.

LEGIE

(ENTERS R.) Well, what is it? Oh there you are, Henry---my long lost husband.

HARRY

Listen, soft pedal it, Maggie, soft pedal it. My old lady will come out here and kill us both.

HAGGLE

I'd like to see her try it. Because according to the rules and regulations of the Cook Lady's Union she can't do it. You little sugar plumb how have you been since I left you.

HONEY

Oh, Maggie, I thought you were bad enough, but this old lady I'm married to now---whew!

MAGGLE

Sure, and now that's no nice way to talk about your wife. Have you only been married once since I left you?

HENRY

Yes, that was enough. But how many times have you been married?

MAGGIE

Oh about four or five times but it didn't take either time.

H. TRY

Let's sit down and talk it over. (SIESDDDDJJJMMJJ PUNSDHHS

M. G. GIE

All right--let's ~~where~~ hear what you've got to say. (PICKS HIM UP AND THEY SET DOWN)

HENRY

Maggie, you're just as big as you ever was.

MAGGIE

Yes, well you aint been engaged any since I left you. But now don't get fresh with me. I'm perfectly decent and I don't fool around married men.

HENRY



HENRY

Aw, Maggie, you're still the same as when we were young. (FEELS AROUND HER LEG AND KNEES)

MAGGIE

Henry, I believe you're an indian--you've got an indian habit.

HENRY

What 's that?

MAGGIE

(MOVES HIS HAND) Paw--knee! Now leave me alone.

HENRY

Aw, Maggie, let's play. (PUSHES HER)

MAGGIE

(PUSHES HIM AND NEARLY KNOCKS HIM OFF THE SEAT) All right I don't care.

HENRY

Let's not play that way. Let's---let's---(FOOLS AROUND HER LEGS)

MAGGIE

Say, Henry, why don't you ask for what you want like a man instead of scratching for it like a dog! Listen, Henry, you better look out you're old lady might come in. (ARABELLA ENTERS L.)

HENRY

What of it? I'm not afraid of her. Why I'd smack her down. I wish she were here so I could show you what I'd do to her, Maggie.

MAGGIE

(SEES ARABELLA STANDING BEHIND THEM) Yeah? Well, Henry, good-by e--

HENRY

What's the matter I aint going any where?

MAGGIE

The hell you aint. You're going to take a ride in a black wagon with rubber tires.

HENRY

Not me. That's one thing that I can truthfully say, Maggie, I'm not hen pecked. Why I---(MAKES A MOTION WITH HIS HAND AND RUBS AGAINST ARABELLA'S FACE) I---I---you were right, Maggie, I am going some where---(GETS UP AND RUNS FOR EXIT L.)

ARABELLA

Oh that old wretch! And you how dare you filander with my husband's affections?

MAGGIE

Lady, you're a liar. I did no such a thing. We didn't have time. You came in too q uick.

ARABELLA

I'll have you to understand that that's my husband.

MAGGIE

That's all right he used to be mine.



ARABELLA

Well, he's mine now and you're not going to take him away from me.

MAGGIE

Don't get excited, lady. Husbands to me are just like paper napkins; after I've used 'em once I have no further use for them. And don't be bawling me out now because according to the rules and regulations of the cook ladies union you can't do that! This for you, and that for you, (TURNS PRAT) And this for your old man. (EXIT)

ARABELLA

Well, I'd like to see him try to get it. Oh I'm going to find that Henry, and then the Lord pity him. (EXITS R.)

JOHN

(ENTERS ARGUING L. WITH STELLA) Oh shut up. I'm telling you that I don't care what you say. I'm not going to be hen pecked like your father is.

STELLA

John Black, my mother is on to you. I've got my suspicions of you, and just one crooked move from you, and you're going to the hospital. Get me! (EXITS L.)

JOHN

Yes, I've got you but now I'd like to get rid of you.. Confound it! That mother-in-law of mine is going to be the means of me separating from Stella if I'm not careful. The old hay bag!

HENRY

(SNAPS IN C.) Shhh! John, did you see my old lady.

JOHN

No, and I don't care if I never see her again. Say what do you let your old lady boss you like that for? She's a regular trouble maker. Since your wife's been here Stella and I haven't had one peaceful word for each other.

HENRY

I know it, my boy.

JOHN

We've got to break them of their continual nagging, and I know how we're going to do it.

HENRY

How?

JOHN

We're going to get ourselves a couple of red hot mamas and go to the costume ball down at Convention hall tonight.

HENRY

Say that won't help matters; that'll make it worse.

JOHN

Oh well, what do we care? We get accused of going out so we'd just as well step. Say I've got two of the hottest babies in town. I'll give you one and I'll take one.

HENRY

N



HENRY

Well---all right---I'll try anything once. (ARABELLA ENTERS AND LISTENS)

JOHN

Good! We'll send my wife and your old lady to the theatre, and then we'll have these babies come here and meet us! Boy! We'll put one over on our wives won't we? (AT PHONE) Main 7896. Hello. This is John Black speaking cutie. Say how about going to the costume ball tonight? O. K. Fine---come to my house and we'll meet you bring along a girl friend. I've got a boy friend for her. All right. We'll have a grand old time. Hotsy Totsy! Oh you kiddo! (HANGS UP) Now to get rid of our wives and then for a good time at the Costume Ball. (HENRY AND JOHN EXIT R.)

ARABELLA

Oh so that's what they are planning to do. I thought so! I told myself so. Stella! Oh Stella. (STELLA) Stella, our husbands are going to go out with a couple of red hot mamas.

STELLA

Oh we must stop them. What will we do?

ARABELLA

Leave it to me. Now, Stella, they are going to try and get us to go to the movies tonight, well we'll act like we are going but instead we'll get a costume and pretend that we are their red hot mamas, then when they get so far, we'll pull the snapper on them. Come on with me, dear. (THEY EXIT)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER THREE\*\*\*\*\*  
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JOHN

(ENTERS WITH HENRY) Well, we got rid of our wives. They are happily enjoying the moving picture show while we are strutting our stuff.

HENRY

I wonder when those babies will show up?

JOHN

Pretty soon now. We'll go take a little bracer of scotch and be prepared for them. Come on. (THEY EXIT R.)

ARABELLA

(ENTERS IN A COSTUME WITH STELLA. THEY BOTH CARRY THEIR MASK IN THEIR HANDS) Well, now we're all ready for our erring husbands. I wonder if they'll recognize us with our masks on.

STELLA

I hope not. And just wait till I get ahold of that John. Oh I'll make him sorry for this.

ARABELLA

Yes, well by the time I get through massaging your pa's head he'll wish he'd never seen me. Oh weren't they slick though. Sending us to the movies. Well, we'll fix them.

MAGGIE

(ENTERS R.) Well, the divil take me and have ye both gone crazy;



ARABELLA

No, Maggie, we are just dressed up to fool our husbands. They're planning on taking a couple of chickens to the a masked ball and we're going to make them think that we are their red hot mamas.

MAGGIE

(LAUGHS) Oh what smart ones ya are. I suppose you'll love your old men up till they get to the melting point then pour cold water on 'em

ARABELLA

Yes, and Maggie, have you got anything that I can hit my husband with?

MAGGIE

Yes, there's the kitchen sink---I think they're awfully nice things I've laid out more than one husband with a sink.

ARABELLA

No, I want something that I can carry around. (SEES UMBRELLA IN CORNER) What's this? Who's it belong to?

MAGGIE

It's mine, but you may use it if you'll not break it. I broke one on my fifth husband, and the next day it rained and I got myself soaked.

ARABELLA

Well, come on, Stella, we must go and hunt them up. Oh the wretches! (THEY EXIT L.)

MAGGIE

Now aint that awful? I'm going to tip the men off so they won't get in bad. (JOHN ENTERS R.) Say, Mr. Black, I want to give you a tip. You've got a date with a couple of chickens tonight for a masked ball, but your wife has found out about it, and she's going to try and catch you with the goods. She's dressed up in a costume. Watch your step.

JOHN

Thanks, Maggie, Gee! I appreciate this. I'll remeber you in my will.

MAGGIE

Yes, well hurry up and kick the bucket then. .Say where's Henry I want to tip him off too.

JOHN

Henry's out in the other room--or maybe on the side porch. Go look for him. (MAGGIE EXITS R.) Oh boy! My life is saved. Now to have some fun. Here comes my wife.now. (STELLA ENTERS WITH MASK ON) Oh there you are my darling little ootch coochy.

STELLA

Yes, here I am. Are you allready to take me out?

JOHN

You bet I am, baby. But let's sit down and talk awhile.

STELLA

Hadn't we better be careful? That funny faced wife of yours might see.



JOHN

Funny faced wife! See here now how dare you talk a bout my darling little wife like that. I'll give you to understand that I love my wife, and that she is as sweet as sugar.

STELLA

Then why have you invited me to go to a costume ball with you?

JOHN

Simply because I want to teach my foolish little wife a lesson. She has listened to the words of a jealous narrow minded mother who can't see good in any body. My wife has accused me of going out with other women, and the truth is that I never look at another woman, but her distrust in me has made me want to teach her a lesson.

STELLA

(BEGINS TO CRY) Oh, John, I'm so sorry. (REMOVES MASK) Forgive me!

JOHN

(PRETENDS SURPRISE) What you? Stella, I'm amazed.

STELLA

I know it, John. You are right Mother has influenced me, but now I know you to be faithful. Oh, John, I'm so happy. And, darling, I'll never distrust you again. Come on, I'm going to tell mother something.

JOHN

(VERY DIGNIFIED) Very well, my dear, but never let it happen again. (THEY EXIT L.)

(ENTERS R.)

MAGGIE

Well, I wonder where Henry is? I can't find him any where and if I don't seem him before his wife does, it will be all off..(EXITS L.)

(ENTERS R.)

HENRY

Well, I wonder where John is and where those chickens he said we were to take out are?

ARABELLA

(ENTERS. SEES HENRY AND PULLS HER MASK DOWN) There's the deciever! (SILLY GIGGLE) Oh hello! Are you waiting for me. (EDGES UP TO HIM)

HENRY

Yes, you little sweet patootity I'm cold papa and I want to be heated

ARABELLA

(ASIDE) You'll get heated.

HENRY

(PUTS ARMS AROUND HER) Baby, we're out for a good time and I don't mean maybe.

ARABELLA

But what about your wife?

HENRY

Oh that old devil! Don't remind me of her; I've got a weak stomach.

MAGGIE

(ENTERS R.) Sw aw! it's all off now. Poor Henry! (EXITS R.)



ARABELLA

So your wife makes you sick does she?

HENRY

She's a pain in the neck. Let's talk about something pleasant. How about a kiss before we got to the costume ball?

ARABELLA

Oh do you want to kiss me. (THROWS HER LEGS OVER HIS LAP)

HENRY

Yes, but you don't have to jump down my throat. (LOOKS AT FEET) Ah ah where have I seen those feet before? Lady, have I ever been out with you before.

ARABELLA

You'll find out.

HENRY

I don't like the way she says that. But let's have a kiss.

ARABELLA

You really want a kiss.

HENRY

Yes, take off that mask, and let's have a slobber. My motto is never take 'em out till you try 'em.

ARABELLA

All right now hide your eyes till I get my mask off, and then for a surprise. (HE HIDES EYES SHE TAKES OFF MASK ROLLS UP SLEEVES AND STANDS OVER WAITING FOR HIM WITH UMBRELLA) All right, now you may kiss me.

HENRY

(TURNS AROUND SEES HER FACE) Oh! I'm sick in the basement. Now, my dear---allow me to explain.

ARABELLA

Explain! I'll explain you---you wretch. (SHAKES HIM AND HITS HIM WITH UMBRELLA)

STELLA

(ENTERS R. WITH JOHN) Mother, stop it. Everything is all right. You shouldn't beat father like that. You've got a jealous nature and you nearly separated John and I know I insist that you leave dad alone. If you don't some day he's liable to be missing---besides John has told me that he and Dad only done this to show us how foolish we really were.

~~ARABELLA~~ HENRY

Yes, my dear, it was just a little joke. And besides I knew it was you all the time.

ARABELLA

Did you? Oh, Henry!

HENRY

My Arabella! (EMBRACE)



JOHN

MY STELLA!

MAGGIE

(GRABS HER UMBRELLA) My umbrella!

F I N A L E